IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An optical scanning device comprising:

a plurality of scanning optical systems arranged in a main scanning direction, the scanning optical systems each comprising:

a plurality of light sources emitting light beams;

a light source driving circuit modulating the emitted light beams separately; and

a deflector causing the light beams to perform scanning,

wherein at least one of the scanning optical systems comprises a light source selection part selecting one of said light sources of the one of the scanning optical systems,

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wherein the scanning optical systems include first and second scanning optical systems scanning first and second scanning areas adjacent to each other, respectively, the first scanning optical system comprising said light source selection part, and

wherein said light source selection part generates a light source selection signal and selects the one of the light sources which one is used for recording image information of a first line of the first scanning area.

Claim 2 (Original): The optical scanning device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said light source driving circuit comprises a function of correcting a modulation frequency for each of the light beams.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The optical scanning device as claimed in claim [[3]]1, wherein said light source selection part generates the light source selection signal based on a difference between recording start times of the first and second scanning optical systems and a scanning position deviation in a sub scanning direction between a scanning end position of the second scanning area and a corresponding scanning start position of the first scanning area.

Claim 5 (Original): The optical scanning device as claimed in claim 4, wherein a time difference between synchronizing detection signals of the first and second scanning optical systems, respectively, is employed as the difference between the recording start times, the synchronizing detection signals being detected in the first and second scanning optical systems when the first and second scanning optical systems start scanning, respectively.

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Claim 6 (Original): The optical scanning device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the first scanning optical system further comprises a recording start time control part controlling a recording start time of the image information of the first line of the first scanning area.

Claim 7 (Original): The optical scanning device as claimed in claim 6, wherein said recording start time control part generates a recording start time signal based on the scanning position deviation.

Claim 8 (Original): The optical scanning device as claimed in claim 7, wherein said light source driving circuit separately modulates the light beams based on the light source selection signal and the recording start time signal.

Claim 9 (Original): The optical scanning device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the first scanning optical system further comprises a scanning position control part controlling the scanning position deviation.

Claim 10 (Original): The optical scanning device as claimed in claim 9, wherein said scanning position control part turns a bending mirror of the first scanning optical system around an axis parallel to the main scanning direction.

Claim 11 (Original): The optical scanning device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the scanning position deviation is obtained by measuring initial characteristics of the optical scanning device.

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Claim 12 (Original): The optical scanning device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the scanning position deviation is detected by a detector provided in the optical scanning device.

Claim 13 (Original): The optical scanning device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the detector is a charge-coupled device.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The optical scanning device as claimed in claim [[3]]1, wherein said light source selection part generates the light source selection signal based on an ideal time difference that is a period of time required for matching a recording end position of the second scanning area and a corresponding recording start position of the first scanning area at [[an]] a joint of the first and second scanning areas.

Claim 15 (Original): The optical scanning device as claimed in claim 14, wherein the ideal time difference is obtained based on a difference between recording start times of the first and second scanning optical systems and a scanning position deviation in a sub scanning direction between a scanning end position of the second scanning area and a corresponding scanning start position of the first scanning area.

Claim 16 (Original): The optical scanning device as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the scanning optical systems include first and second scanning optical systems scanning first and second scanning areas adjacent to each other, respectively; and

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the first scanning optical system further comprises said light source selection part and a recording start time control part controlling a recording start time of image information of a first line of the first scanning area.

Claim 17 (Original): The optical scanning device as claimed in claim 16, wherein said recording start time control part generates a recording start time signal based on a scanning position deviation in a sub scanning direction between a scanning end position of the second scanning area and a corresponding scanning start position of the first scanning area.

Claim 18 (Original): The optical scanning device as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the scanning optical systems include first and second scanning optical systems scanning first and second scanning areas adjacent to each other, respectively; and

the first scanning optical system further comprises said light source selection part and a scanning position control part controlling a scanning position deviation in a sub scanning

direction between a scanning end position of the second scanning area and a corresponding scanning start position of the first scanning area.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): ~~The optical scanning device as claimed in claim 18,~~ An optical scanning device comprising:

a plurality of scanning optical systems arranged in a main scanning direction, the scanning optical systems each comprising:

a plurality of light sources emitting light beams;

a light source driving circuit modulating the emitted light beams separately; and

a deflector causing the light beams to perform scanning,

wherein at least one of the scanning optical systems comprises a light source selection part selecting one of said light sources of the one of the scanning optical systems,

wherein the scanning optical systems include first and second scanning optical systems scanning first and second scanning areas adjacent to each other, respectively,

wherein the first scanning optical system comprises said light source selection part and a scanning position control part controlling a scanning position deviation in a sub scanning direction between a scanning end position of the second scanning area and a corresponding scanning start position of the first scanning area, and

wherein said scanning position control part turns a bending mirror of the first scanning optical system around an axis parallel to the main scanning direction.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): An imaging apparatus including an optical scanning device having a plurality of scanning optical systems arranged in a main scanning direction, wherein[[: the]] each scanning optical ~~systems each~~ system comprises:

a plurality of light sources emitting light beams;

a light source driving circuit modulating the emitted light beams separately; and

a deflector causing the light beams to perform scanning; and

at least one of the scanning optical systems comprises a light source selection part selecting one of said light sources of the one of the scanning optical systems,

wherein the scanning optical systems include first and second scanning optical systems scanning first and second scanning areas adjacent to each other, respectively, the first scanning optical system comprising said light source selection part, and

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wherein said light source selection part generates a light source selection signal and selects the one of the light sources which one is used for recording image information of a first line of the first scanning area.

Claim 21 (Original): The imaging apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein said light source driving circuit comprises a function of correcting a modulation frequency for each of the light beams.

Claim 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The imaging apparatus as claimed in claim [[22]]20, wherein said light source selection part generates the light source selection signal based on a difference between recording start times of the first and second scanning optical systems and a scanning position deviation in a sub scanning direction between a scanning end position of the second scanning area and a corresponding scanning start position of the first scanning area.

Claim 24 (Original): The imaging apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the one of the scanning optical systems which one comprises said light source selection part further comprises a recording start time control part controlling a recording start time of image information of a first line of a scanning area scanned by the one of the scanning optical systems.

Claim 25 (Original): The imaging apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein:

the scanning optical systems include first and second scanning optical systems scanning first and second scanning areas adjacent to each other, respectively; and

the first scanning optical system comprises said light source selection part and a scanning position control part controlling a scanning position deviation in a sub scanning direction between a scanning end position of the second scanning area and a corresponding scanning start position of the first scanning area.

Claim 26 (Original): An imaging method employing an optical scanning device including a plurality of scanning optical systems arranged in a main scanning direction, the imaging method comprising the steps of:

(a) generating a light source selection signal in at least one of the scanning optical systems to select one of light sources thereof, the one of the light sources being used for recording image information of a first line of a scanning area scanned by the one of the scanning optical systems, wherein the light source selection signal is generated based on a time difference between recording start times of the one and an adjacent one of the scanning optical systems and a scanning position deviation in a sub scanning direction between a scanning end position of a scanning area of the adjacent one of the scanning optical systems

and a corresponding scanning start position of the scanning area of the one of the scanning optical systems, the scanning areas being adjacent to each other;

(b) emitting light beams from the light sources in the one of the scanning optical systems, the light beams being modulated separately by a light source driving circuit of the one of the scanning optical systems; and

(c) performing scanning with the light beams being deflected by a deflector of the one of the scanning optical systems.

Claim 27 (Original): The imaging method as claimed in claim 26, further comprising the step of (d) correcting a modulation frequency for each of the light beams by the light source driving circuit.

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Claim 28 (Canceled).

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): The imaging method as claimed in claim [[28]]26, further comprising the step of (d) controlling a recording start time of the image information of the first line by generating a recording start time signal in the one of the scanning optical systems based on the scanning position deviation.

Claim 30 (Original): The imaging method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the light source driving circuit modulates the light beams separately based on the light source selection signal and the recording start time signal.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): The imaging method as claimed in claim [[28]]26, wherein a time difference between synchronizing detection signals of the one and the

adjacent one of the scanning optical systems, respectively, is employed as the difference between the recording start times, the synchronizing detection signals being detected in the one and the adjacent one of the scanning optical systems when the one and the adjacent one of the scanning optical systems start scanning, respectively.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): The imaging method as claimed in claim [[28]]26, wherein the scanning position deviation is obtained by measuring initial characteristics of the optical scanning device.

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Claim 33 (Currently Amended): ~~The imaging method as claimed in claim 26, further comprising the step of~~ An imaging method employing an optical scanning device including a plurality of scanning optical systems arranged in a main scanning direction, the imaging method comprising the steps of:

(a) generating a light source selection signal in at least one of the scanning optical systems to select one of light sources thereof, the one of the light sources being used for recording image information of a first line of a scanning area scanned by the one of the scanning optical systems;

(b) emitting light beams from the light sources in the one of the scanning optical systems, the light beams being modulated separately by a light source driving circuit of the one of the scanning optical systems; and

(c) performing scanning with the light beams being deflected by a deflector of the one of the scanning optical systems; and

(d) controlling the scanning position deviation by turning a bending mirror of the one of the scanning optical systems about an axis parallel to the main scanning direction.